



DECEMBER 1998

THE GARZETTE



VOLUME 8, ISSUE 12



The President's Pen

By Ike Chapman, KE4GYM



I want to start by wishing each and every member of the **GARS** family a Happy Holiday season. Please remember to try your best to make it a safe holiday season as well. With all the hustle and bustle this time of year as we scurry about on our errands its very easy to get impatient. When the traffic and crowds start to get to you, take a few seconds and a couple of deep breaths and then ease along your way. We need our most valuable club assets, our members, back safe and sound after the holidays.

We had a good turn out at the November meeting and a big **GARS** thank you goes out to Dick Bentley, K2UFT and Tom Harrell, N4XP for the great program on DX'ing. For those that couldn't make the meeting, Dick gave a primer on DX tips and techniques and Tom made a presentation on a DX-pedition he'd made to Wake Island. Both slide shows were very informative and Tom has offered to return to give a program about a DX-pedition he participated in to North Cooke Island.

The annual **GARS** Christmas Party is coming up on December 18th and will take the

place of our regular club meeting. Ticket prices are the same as last year, \$15 per person or \$25 per couple and tickets for children under 12 are \$7.50. You can purchase tickets from John Sokol, K9AOK but we have to have a final head count by December 15th. The party will kick off at 8 PM and we have the room reserved until 12 midnight. A buffet meal will be served with a salad bar, a couple of entrees, vegetable choices, and a dessert selection. Kevin McClure, KF4HFN will be our DJ with great tunes as he has the past couple of years. We will be announcing the **GARS** Ham Of The Year winner and recognizing all **GARS** members that helped out with our events during this year with Service Award certificates. We also have a nice selection of door prizes to be given away including a 6 meter HT and gift certificates to local eateries and merchants. I've heard through the grapevine that Santa will be there and have goodies for the kids (no not the grown up ones) too. If you haven't yet made plans to be there, please get in

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W4GR



Makes its Debut!

If you've been listening to the club repeaters recently you may have noticed a different but melodious sound ringing from our digital brothers. They ring out: "This is the Double U Four Gee Are Repeater", and "Welcome to the Double U Four Gee Are Repeater". Doesn't that ring!

Quite a while ago when the vanity call option was opened, an idea came about to change the club call sign. You might ask: "Why change it?" The reasons for change are numerous and diverse as one might expect for the sake of Vanity. The main reasons, so I hear, were to be shorter, simpler, easy to use, but more so - Meaningful! A call that can be used for club events that will become synonymous with the **GARS** Club.

But change it to what? The search was on. Some that were looked into: W4GAR, K4GAR, WG4AR, ETC. But Howie kept his keyboard on the pulse of the FCC and finally saw a good one. So the race to get it was on.

We're 4 Gwinnett Radio or Great Radio, however you

slice it - **Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society** will...

Give Amateur Radio Spirit

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GARS Officers 1998-1999

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Ike Chapman, KE4GYM (770)339-8123

Vice President

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Secretary

John Sokol, K9AOK (770)925-1619

Treasurer

Randy Drescher, K4HS (770)925-9549

Activities Manager

Kevin McClure, KF4HFN (770) 266-6475

Board Of Directors

Johnny Fearon, W4WKP (770)466-4038

Duane Hanson, KD4KCR (770)962-6086

Howie Gould, W4NVF (770)921-8362

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Membership Chairman

Jack Herndon, WU4H (770)995-0438

Publicity Chairman

Mike Swiderski, K4HBI (770)449-0369

Newsletter Editor

Joe Biddle, AD4PZ (770)963-4316

License Trustee

Randy Drescher, K4HS (770)925-9549

Repeater Chairman

Howie Gould, W4NVF (770)921-8362

Tech Fest

Barry Zoll, N1TOQ (770)277-5175

TVI

David Schulte, KT4NK (770)923-0389

Contest Manager

Mark Kozma, KD3GC (770)962-7386

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Jeff Cutchins, KF4NBD (770) 614-8750

CW Net Manager

Gene Gach, KF4NOG (770) 925-0186

Rookie Radio

Carter Wood, KF4HLF (770) 923-9667

Field Day

(OPEN)

Education Coordinator

Win Jackson, N1TWX (404)869-1347

Legal Counsel

Bill Brandon, WW4BB (770)554-9998

Apparel Manager

Susan Swiderski, AF4FO (770)449-0369

Christmas Party Chairman

Tammy Sokol, (770)925-1619

Digital Radio Chairman

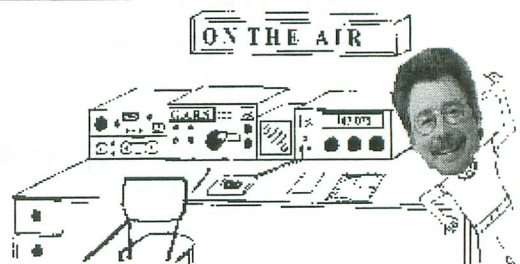
John Farr, KD6CLO (770)279-8711

HF/VHF/UHF Awards Checker

Ade Wirth, N2BSG (770)614-3743

♦♦♦

On The Air with Susan Swiderski AF4FO by Karl Phillips, K4GZZ



Susan Swiderski, AF4FO

Month after month, I carefully scan our club roster and wonder who to interview next for this feature. I do put some thought into it. I try to refrain from throwing darts at the club roster on the wall and calling the amateur that the dart lands closest to. I try to go with a newcomer sometimes and then again I might go with license class or years of experience. We will finish another year of Ham of the Month articles on a definite "up note".

This month's Ham of the Month is Susan Swiderski - AF4FO. Susan is a "never say die", loyal and active club member. She always lights up a room and is always one of the first to volunteer and participate in GARS activities throughout the year. Therefore, this month's Ham of the Month feature was a virtual "no brainer". Susan is such a loyal member, I think she literally bleeds GARS apparel color. (Hey, that's RED....we all do that!!)

Let's cut to the chase....Susan was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. She attended grammar and high school there and met Mike (K4HBI) while in the 8th grade. She married him ANY-

WAY !! Susan graduated from Dundalk High School and went to the University of Maryland for a year before getting a summer job with a local hospital, doing medical research. She and Mike were wed in 1969. Susan continued her medical research job while Mike joined the Army and served in Vietnam. While Mike was in Vietnam, Susan saved her money....she also saved Mike's money with their plans to buy a home once Mike was discharged. They did buy a home in Baltimore, but didn't stay long. Mike and Susan moved to Atlanta in December of 1971.

Susan was a homemaker and devoted all of her time to raising their 3 children. Mike was licensed K4HBI, but split his time between helping out with the kids and doing a little hamming on the side. Susan considered ham radio a little "over her head" at that time. It wasn't until around 1996 that Susan started noticing ham radio. The kids were grown and living away from home and Susan had more time for Susan. Mike was a regular check-in to The Turnip Truck net and one night while they were playing a trivia game on the net, Susan decided to try and answer some of the trivia questions. Mike wouldn't let her handle the mike, but he would relay her answers to Net Control- Bill Brandon- now WW4BB. Susan is a self proclaimed learning junkie and decided she was going to get the study manual and get her ticket.

By March of 1997, Susan was a technical and held the call KF4PNW (pretty nice woman). By June....she was a General and nipping at Mike's

(Continued on page 9)



This year has been exciting to say the least. As a group under the present ARES leadership, we only had about 15 months of training together before a major disaster came about. Of course I'm talking about Hall and Gwinnett County tornado's that struck in the early spring. Then it seemed that wave after wave of severe thunderstorms rolled through the area for the next couple of months, keeping us up into the early morning hours, watching the various radar sources and listening to the local TV weathermen. Fortunately, the hurricane season has been uneventful for us here in Gwinnett County.

We did get to observe though the importance of ham radio's involvement with emergency communications during a disaster situation by listening to the HF nets. Other items of accomplishments need to be mentioned also. Our monthly ARES meetings were started back in April and has given the opportunity for several good programs to be presented to ARES members. We now have several Red Cross certified damage assessors in our group as well as certified Red Cross CPR graduates. We participated in Field Day and SET (Simulated Emergency Test) weekend. There were two SKYWARN spotter classes taught with the public being invited to one of them. A search and rescue class headed up by our Metro DEC (KS4EL Steve Strong) was taught in March. The first annual Statewide ARES meeting was introduced in

Jan. of this year. By the way, the 1999 meeting will be Jan. 16th in Macon.

Final decision on the meeting facility will be made known soon. Listen to net or check our ARES webpage (www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Hangar/3516) for updates. I became involved with GEMA (Georgia Emergency Management Agency) through meeting Mike Boatwright (KO4WX) and with the permission of our DEC (KS4EL), became an assistant DEC to Mike. I look forward to working with Mike and increasing my knowledge and skills under his leadership. There is a need for trained communicators to operate the GEMA station during times of disaster, so if interested, contact Mike at : ko4wx@mindspring.com for more information.

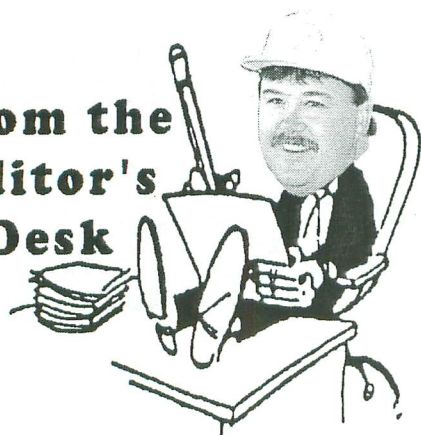
Gwinnett County ARES has filled all needed leadership positions except for a Logistics Manager (a person designated to determine the communication needs with the EC or AEC at the disaster site, implement a plan to obtain the equipment, install this equipment and maintain it during the duration of the disaster). Want the job? Please contact me (KM4Z) and we'll talk about it, you won't be alone in this position. All the ARES leadership will be backing you because it's a very critical job that needs to be performed to insure successful communications.

There were some items that I did not complete to my satisfaction, and one was: improving our relationship with the county emergency management authorities. There was no involvement with planning our EOC (Emergency Operations Center) station setup other than a verbal promise of having a spot in the new facility and to have training on formal written traffic including being more visibly involved with ARES at all GARS events and meetings. So I've already got my New Year's resolutions recognized and written down, HiHi

Thanks to those that participated in training programs, nets and meetings this year. You've made the Gwinnett ARES/SKYWARN Group successful and beneficial to the community. To the ones who helped in the real time events we had this year, a great big THANK-YOU goes out to you. I know though that the real reward is being felt in your heart right now, knowing that you helped your neighbor in a time of need and that feeling is one that money can't buy nor anyone steal from you either. So let's get ready to do it again in 1999 (hopefully as little real-time involvement as possible though) and do it better.

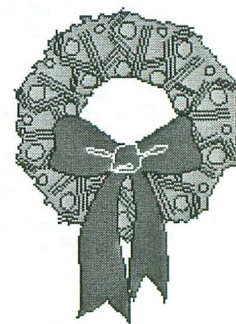
We will have a table at the TECH-FEST in January. More details will be posted during ARES nets on Monday nights on this event. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. That's all until next month. See ya then.

From the Editor's Desk



Come Place Me

By AD4PZ



'Come Place Me' - Sounds like: Complacency: "Com-pla-cen-cy" as defined, contentment - self-satisfaction.

We tend to get into a comfort zone where we live and let others make things happen. Anything else makes us 'uncomfortable'. New experiences is what lets us learn and grow. Helping or contributing is another way to gain on our own experiences and build upon our own self-worth. When I took over as Editor of the GARZETTE, I considered it a way to contribute in a hobby area of something that I enjoy plus gain a writing and story compilation skill. *(Though some would argue any improvement on my part).*

Being a large club is a lot of fun but it is not without its trials. I've seen this club grow from 77 in 1994 to numbers approaching 350. What a great club! We have some money in the bank, repeaters that work, fun learning activities, informative and entertaining club meetings, friendly helpful members, numerous social activities, dedicated creative leaders and a HECK of a newsletter. (I just had to! Hi Hi)

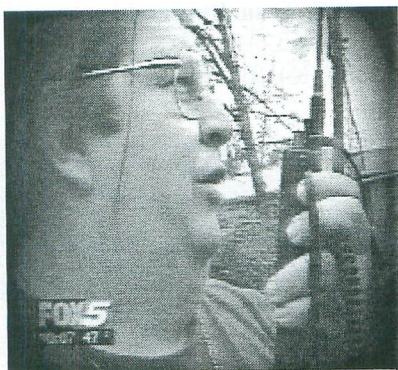
The club 'Unit' has many sides and personalities, however, it can not run itself. Planning activities, maintaining and improving club equipment, and general tasks necessary to keep any organization performing takes people and resources. Those delegated 'in-charge' need your help! As we

close in on the Holidays and we reflect on the year gone by, we should take the time to appreciate those who've taken the time to bring us all a little quality of life. Whether it is someone lining up a program for our club meetings, paying the club bills or jotting down things for the club archives - those folks have committed to you a certain level of dedication that should not go without notice. So when you're faced with an opportunity to help out in some way with anything or anyone you are involved with, give it a chance to work for you. Look at it as a challenge or just a nice gesture. You may acquire a new skill set or polish some that you may have already had. And next time someone says: "We need volunteers to...", say out loud: "I'll Help...**COME PLACE ME!!**"

Included herein are a few tokens of recognition to some of those who've said, come place me. Though there are many, many folks to acknowledge, there is just not enough GARZETTE to squeeze them in...in this issue anyway. So as you eye across some familiar faces, keep in mind that these are the folks who've made a commitment to heading up an event, program or serve in a function of some sort. These sadly do not include those who've assisted or served in some of the functions headed by those shown.

Happy and Safe Holiday's

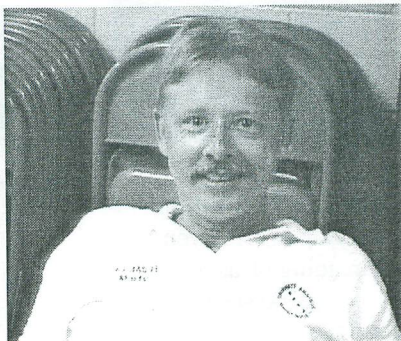




GARS PRESIDENT

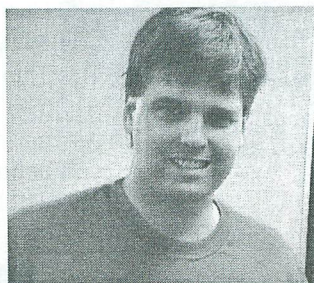
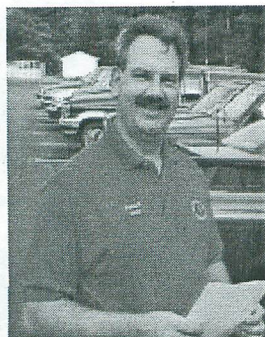
What President ever worked so hard for the good of the unit.
Ike, KE4GYM

What a VP! The self dubbed 'RedNeck' always keeps things movin & Groovin. Marty, KE4MLH (Mr. BBQ)



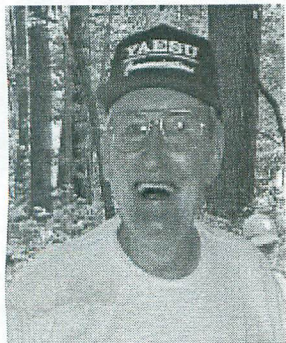
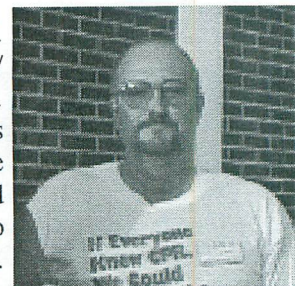
What an Investment we made with this guy. Club Treasurer. You've heard of 'Check & Balances'? That's Randy, K4HS

Club record keeping is always 'AOK' with Secretary John, K9AOK



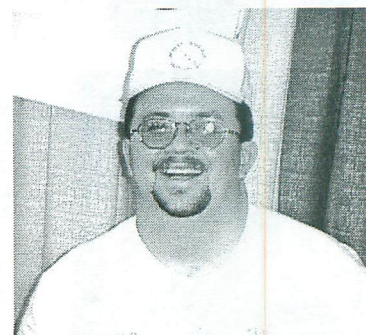
Kevin is his Name & Activities is his Game.
KF4HFN

Lowry, KM4Z. Alias ARES/Skywarn E.C. Dedicates himself to the health and welfare of so many people.



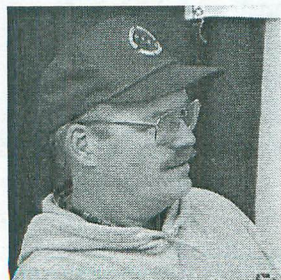
Howie Repeaterman Operator (HRO) Now that's... Not Very Funny. W4NVF Keeping the system at its 'voting' best.

'On The Air' Karl, K4GZZ keeps bringing you a featured ham each month. Happy xxth On The Air interview, Karl.



KD6CLO, Packet Chairman Has John been 'Hexed'? 10111001011100!!

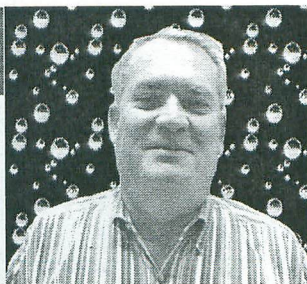
Net Tonight at 8 says says Manager Jeff, KF4NBD 'Not Before Dinner'



Current Web Master David (http://www.KA4KKF). Has revitalized the entire internet with the new GARS site. Look for more good things from this fella



Thanks to his meticulous Email list Jack, WU4H





Techfest '1999'
Look for another
successful Tech
Fest Event
in January.
Barry, N1TOQ

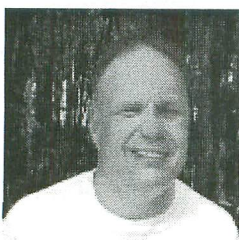


Yes...It's your
GARZETTE Editor
Trying to bring you
reading pleasure.
Joe, AD4PZ

Team Swiderski
Susan, AF4FO (Apparel)
Mike, K4HBI (Public Relations)
WOW!!



Mr Ambassador
'We Keep Peace'
Johnny, W4WKP
Getting Programs
to delight



Christmas Party
1998 Chairman
Tammy Sokol.
You've got to
make this years
holiday event it
will be great!



W4ADE,
Ade takes
GARS
Members
DX Card
and Mails
them for you



Such
Photogenic-osity.
'Mr. Pixel'
Without him, many
of these images
wouldn't be
possible. Thanks
Brian, KF4MWI

Win, N1TWX
coordinating the
educational effort
ensuring our future.
It's a 'Win Win'
situation.



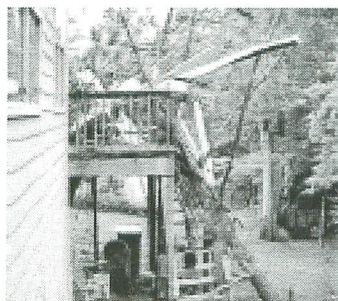
--- • --- • --- • ---
CW Net
Manager
Gene, KF4NOG



Field Day Chairman '97,
'98

Mark Kozma.
Who could
ask for more?

KD3 Good Company



Helping fellow hams in
need is who we **ARE!**
Not who we wish to be.

**Being together is what we choose.
Where others may have
wished they had.**



**Togetherness,
Food
and Radio
mix very well
thank you.**



A little compassion and
affection
goes a long way.



NOVEMBER Meeting Minutes by John Sokol, K9AOK - Secretary

In Attendance: Ike, KE4GYM, President; Marty, KE4MLH, Vice President; John, K9AOK, Secretary; Kevin, KF4HFN, Activities Manager.

55 members signed the roster, 2 guest speakers, and 8 guests. The program was started as soon as introductions were completed.

The program was with DX and how to DX effectively. It was held by Dick Bentley K2UFT. Dick spoke of his many tricks of the trade that he uses to catch that elusive DX.

Next up was a presentation of the DX-pedition to the Wake Island (AL7EL/KH9) by Tom Harrell, N4XP. If Tom's presentation did not want to assist him on his next trip to Wake Island, you must have been sleeping ... HI HI!!

Upon the completion of the excellent presentations, Ike, KE4GYM made the motion to have the secretary's minutes as posted in the club's publication, The GARZETTE, be approved as written. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Ike, KE4GYM, informed the club of the current status of the radio system. Including the 440 radio amplifier, the new controller for the 440, the 6 meter tower is installed and the 'cans' are ordered. The 6 meter is being tuned and the proper crystals have also been ordered. It will not be long before the 6 meter repeater is on the air!

Barry, N1TOQ announced the status of the 1999 Tech Fest. It is scheduled to occur on the third weekend of January ... although the date is not confirmed. The church still needs to confirm we may have use of the hall on that date. The Tech Fest will again include a chili cook off, so get your recipes dusted off! More information will be released as it is gained.

John, K9AOK gave information on the annual Christmas party. All is on schedule for the December 18th event. The door prizes have been secured and the Grand Door Prize is likely to be a 6 meter hand held radio, in honor of all of the work being done getting our club on this band. Tickets are available by contacting John by phone, by e-mail, or in person. The hall needs to have a final number to attend by December 15th, so please contact John as soon as possible. Remember, the club will again be sponsoring a food drive for one of the county's shelters. Bring your non perishable food products in their original labeled and manufacturers sealed containers.

Mike, K4HBI announced an event being sponsored by the North Fulton Amateur Radio Club. This function is an auction/hamfest. It will be held this Saturday, November 21st at 2pm. Directions to the Alpharetta event were provided by Mike to the event.

Ike reminded all hams that their opinion is needed on the proposed FCC changes by December 1st. All licensed hams are strongly encouraged to voice their opinion on these changes.

Ike announced the results of the 1998 GARS Field Day, as posted in the current issue of QST. GARS totals were good enough to claim 2nd place, nationwide, for the 7-A classification. We were #1 in Georgia and among all of the participants in Field Day, all categories, GARS finished in 32nd place.

Ike reminded all in attendance that there were only 2 nominations, so far, for this year's GARS Ham of the Year. Please send your nominations to any board member.

Ike reminded all that January will be the time to nominate your new executive board. Every position will be available for any member in good standing. The vote for the executive board will be held at the February 1999 general meeting.

Ike reminded all in attendance that there is still no field day 1999 chairman. With the results from last year, and the documentation that Mark, KD3GC had collected, this is not an event to let go of. Ike took a poll of any member in attendance who would like to volunteer to assist the yet to be named chairperson in

coordinating the 1999 Field Day. The following people expressed their desires by raising their hands. Kevin, KF4HFN; Karl, K4GZZ; Johnny, W4WKP; Joe, AD4PZ; Barry, N1TOQ; Ade, W4ADE; John, KF4MZZ; Rob, KD4VBR; Rick, KD4VOJ; Mike, K4HBI; Susan, AF4FO; David, KA4KKF and John, K9AOK.

Ike read a letter from QCWA, Chap. 49 regarding the GARS involvement in the Education Fund in memory of Jud Whatley, W4NZJ. The letter was submitted to the secretary for posting with the minutes.

Marty, KE4MLH announced the next upcoming Dog Show, to be held on February 5, 6 and 7. Volunteers are needed to be identified as soon as is possible to let the show coordinators of our intentions.

Jack, K4UH, Membership Chairman announced the following names for membership: KE4QFH .. James Dempsey, WA4AAP .. Greig Ripple, KF4ZYL .. James Bradrick, KG4ATH .. Anna Tayler, KG4AUB .. Jeremy Goodman, KG4APN .. Jonathan Henry, KG4APM .. Scott Hartman, KG4ALB .. Aaron Morris, KG4ATI .. Nick Boylan.

All were welcomed, unanimously in the club membership roster.

Ike had the potential candidates for the executive board stand and be identified.

President: David, KA4KKF

Vice President: Rick, KD4VOJ and Kevin, KF4HFN

Secretary: John, K9AOK

Treasurer: Jeff, KF4NBD

Activities Manager .. OPEN

Also the appointed positions will be vacated at the board change in February: Membership Chairman, Newsletter Editor.

If you are interested in any of these positions ... let a current board member know.

Win, N1TWX asked for assistance with a program in conjunction with the Sci-Trek Museum. There will be 2 people needed for approx. 4 hours to bring Santa's voice to the children in various locations. As more information is learned, it will be passed on to the club.

Win announced the first Tech-No Code and General Theory classes of 1999. The classes will be at the Central Gwinnett High School in Lawrenceville. Again, the school is asking a nominal fee to use the facilities. The classes will begin on January 22, 1999.

Ade, W4ADE (was N2BSG) asked for any QSL cards that need to be distributed. As the Club's QSL outgoing manager, if you have any cards that need to be sent, please contact Ade.

Pat, KE4IKC reminded all of the ARES net on Monday nights at 9pm on the club repeater.

The club drawing was held and the winners were Mike, WA4MZJ .. winner of a current issue of WorldRadio Newspaper and Jeff, KF4NBD a \$25.00 gift certificate to HRO, Doraville, GA.

The meeting was closed at 9:47 pm local time by President Ike, KE4GYM



...The President's Pen

(Continued from page 1)

touch with John, K9AOK.

We continue to make progress on the upgrades to the **GARS** communication system since the club voted to undertake these projects. The new amplifier for the 440 MHz repeater has been received and is online in Snellville as the initial step in upgrading that repeater. The new controller for the 440 MHz system is on order as is the new 8 channel voter for the 2 meter system. The new controller will be the next item to be worked on when it comes in since we will then take the existing controller from the 440 system and use it on the new 6 meter repeater.

Speaking of the 6 meter repeater, we've made significant progress on that front as well. The antenna has been installed at Lawrenceville thanks to a work party of John Kemker, KF4MZD; Howie Gould, W4NVF; Lou Manglass, NY4F; Jim Dempsey, KE4QFH; Joe Biddle, AD4PZ; and our climbing crew of Bill Ahls, KE4EIH; and Bill Putman, KF4TLY. As part of the antenna installation, the climbing crew installed the feed line for the 6 meter repeater and secured it to the side of the water tank and performed some other maintenance on the rest of our antennas and feed line at that site.

We had a set of duplexers donated to us by Jim, KE4QFH in the hopes that we could tune them from the commercial band to the amateur 6 meter band. When Eddie Faust, WD4JEM and Kevin McClure, KF4HFN attempted this tuning they discovered that the duplexers

could not be tuned to the desired frequency range so a new set of duplexers has been ordered and should be arriving about the time you're reading this newsletter. In the interim of the duplexers getting to us, more work is being done to tune the radios, order crystals, handle the coordination paper work and do all the remaining site work. It is our hope that once the duplexers come in, we'll be able to assemble the system and have it up and on the air by the end of this month.

Don't forget that we'll have the first round of nominations for the election of new officers at our January meeting. So far we have had David Adcock, KA4KKF announce his candidacy for President. For Vice President we have had Kevin McClure, KF4HFN and Rick Morris, KD4VOJ throw their hats in the ring. John Sokol, K9AOK will be running for Secretary and Jeff Cutchins, KF4NBD will be running for Treasurer. So far, we've had nobody announce their intention to run for Activities Manager. So if you're interested in any of these positions, arrange to have someone put your name in nomination at the January meeting. Then at the February meeting we'll have a second round of nominations and then hold the elections.

Once again, let me take the opportunity to wish you and your family a safe and Happy Holiday and I look forward to seeing you at the party.



GARS Tech Fest 1999 and Chili Cook-off 2nd Annual

To Be held on Saturday, January 23rd, 11am-3pm at
the Central Baptist Church, 250 Gwinnett Drive, in Lawrenceville, GA.

Members of the local Amateur Radio Community will be displaying their talents in many areas of Amateur Radio. Here are just some of the subjects that will be on display: VHF/UHF Satellite (Oscar-27), HF Station, Slow Scan TV, Old Radio's, Fox Hunting, Soldering, Low Cost Transceiver Construction and more. If you have a request or an idea of a subject topic, contact Barry, N1TOQ and let him know.

Some additional topics that are in the works: Batteries, Emergency Power (Y2K closer than you think), Packet Radio, Antenna construction, Wiring the car/home/office for Amateur Radio, ARES display.

Bring your award winning Chili and Corn Bread. World famous Chili experts will be on hand for judging.

And for those of you not really into chili there will be hamburgers, hot dogs and all the fixin's. Soft drinks and coffee provided.

...On the Air

(Continued from page 2)

heels, on her way up the upgrade ladder. Susan got her Advanced at the Huntsville Hamfest...got her 20 WPM code speed and at the Gainesville Hamfest in September of 1997 passed her Extra ticket. From no license to Extra in 7 months !!!! They need to create a higher class license for Susan !!!

Susan has been a member of GARS since 1997. She is also a member of 4 other local clubs and is a "friend" of QCWA. Susan loves GARS because it gives her the chance to serve as unofficial club hostess. Susan likes being "one of the guys" and loves everyone in the club. She loves showing people around GARS events.

Susan participates in all kinds of GARS activities. She is a Net Control for the Tuesday night nets and also serves as and alternate net control. She is of course doing a great job as our Apparel Chairman and is on our Field Day Committee and volunteers for many special events. She has, in the past, worked many of the GARS parades. She likes to work with handicapped children, the elderly and the homeless.

Susan and Mike have ham equipment in almost every room of the house. Even an occasional hand-held 2 meter rig in the bathroom has been known to occur. As far as rigs go...there are a bunch. Many AM ham rigs, a Yaesu FT-920 and three Drakes..a TR7, TR4, and TR3. Susan has a Yaesu FT-757 in a closet and a novice cw station. There is a Yaesu dual band 2 meter and 440 rig and an Alinco HF rig that covers 6-160 meters. All of this is within reach from

her easychair...with radios on the left and the rotor to the right !!!!

Susan and Mike are the only ham couple I know with "His & Hers" towers. You heard it right...Susan has her own tower !!! She has a Ringo Ranger perched atop hers while Mikes' has a 6 meter beam and a Wilson tribander on it. Susan wants Santa to bring her a 40 meter beam. Let's see him get that on his sleigh!

The last of the children moved out of the Swiderski home the day before Thanksgiving. Her room is now being turned into the official GARS storage room.

Everyone already knows what a wonderful and friendly person Susan Swiderski is. She is so glad to be involved in ham radio as she and Mike feed off of each others enthusiasm for the hobby. Her contacts thrill him and visa-versa. When a bundle of QSL's arrive from the bureau...they both enjoy..... Please get to know Susan, both on the air and off. She is such a pleasure to associate with and it was my pleasure to feature her.

I hope everyone had a safe and pleasant Christmas and I look forward to next year and a string of entertaining and informative On the Air interviews. Best of 73... Happy New Year...and nothing but the best DX to all. I'll see ya next year..... Karl - K4GZZ



JANUARY Birthdays Within GARS

By Jack Herndon, WU4H

3 WA4MJZ Michael Zawlocki Sr

5 KE4NJX Rick Darby

6 KF4PZZ Alan Johnston

9 KA4RQM Justin Durrance II

9 KE4JCG Edward Hill

13 KF4VSH Jose Puga

13 A~BM1 Maeve Berry

13 KF4HFN Kevin McClure

16 KF4SCB John Durkin

18 AJ4S Clarence Upthegrove

19 KB4AIA Harley Jones

19 Bobi Brooks

19 KE4HEO Kathy Goodman

20 KF4BHX Kim Lewis

20 KE4PWU Gwen Darby

20 W4IA Ron Davidson

20 KD4KCR Duane Hanson

20 AD4S Pickett Cummins

22 KF4GEZ Jim Reeves

23 KB7UV Andy Funk

25 W4WTC Terry Cantrell

26 W4HZV Temp Titus

27 KE4CWI Robert DiPrima

28 KF4RMB Odelio Banuelos

30 N4ZP Jim Larkin

30 KN4VP Joel Hitt

31 KC4ZEM Helen Willey

31 KA4LPT Robin Fearon

GARS

Christmas Party

I just wanted to remind everyone of the annual GARS Christmas Party coming up on Friday, December 18th, at the Holiday Inn in Suwanee. The party will start at 8 PM and we have the room reserved until midnight. Kevin McClure, KF4HFN will be serving as DJ and there is to be room for a dance floor as well. A buffet dinner will be served with a salad bar, a couple of entrée choices, several vegetable choices, and a dessert bar.

We have secured a good number of door prizes to be given away during the party thanks to the efforts of Howie Gould, W4NVF, Karl Phillips, K4GZZ and Tammy Sokol who has done a superb job of putting this party together. Howie has arranged for gifts from Tech America, MFJ, and HRO. Karl obtained a box full from his employer and Tammy has secured gift certificates from local restaurants and other merchants and has put together some gift bags for the kids that will attend. The executive committee voted to give away an HT again this year and give our focus on the six meter repeater project so we'll be giving away a 6 meter HandiTalkie.

We'll also be announcing the GARS Ham Of The Year award and presenting the winner with a nice plaque. All those folks that have aided and participated in club events during the past year will be awarded Service Awards and we have one or two other awards to make as well.

Ticket prices are the same as last year, \$15 per person, \$25 per couple, and \$7.50. You can get tickets by contacting John Sokol at (770)925-1619, or at k9aok@hotmail.com. We have to have all reservations made by 12/14 so we can give a head count to the hotel on the following day. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Ike, KE4GYM

Congratulations

Mark Kozma - KD3GC. Mark placed 1st in Georgia in the 1998 ARRL International DX Phone Contest. Mark scored 45,672 points, 173 QSO's and 88 Multipliers. Marks' score beat out the 2nd place finisher by a "whopping" 10,000 points. Nice going, Mark !!!

Quotable Quote - My wife sent me a picture of the surface of the moon. Under it...she wrote...."Wish you were here".

Heard over the GARS repeater - "Analysis is at least 25 percent of the solution" - Ron- WE5O



Please join me in welcoming our newest GARS members:

KE4QFH	James Dempsey
WA4AAP	Greig Ripple
KF4ZYL	James Bradrick
KG4ATH	Anna Tyler
KG4AUB	Jeremy Goodman
KG4APN	Jonathan Henry
KG4APM	Scott Hartman
KG4ALB	Aaron Morris
KG4ATI	Nick Boylan

Best regards,

Jack - WU4H
Membership Chairman

GARS Electronic Mail List



If you have an EMail address and have not yet registered it with the club and wish to do so, please send a message to **Jack Hern- don, WU4H** and request to be added to the list.

Send to: wu4h@jherndon.org

GWINNETT COLLISION CENTER, INC.

305 Sharon Ind. Way
Suwanee, Georgia 30024
945-0161

Import and Domestic
Unibody and Frame Repair ws

Marty Fowler, KE4MLH

Mark Justice

Go To Jail...Do Not Pass Go

Ham Accused of Jamming Atlanta Airport

A Georgia ham radio operator has been arrested after being accused of jamming air traffic control near Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport. Newsline David Black, KB4KCH reports on this rather unusual case:

46 year old Kevin M. Kelly, N2BYE, is charged with four counts of interference, this, after agents executed a search warrant November 6th at his Cumming, Georgia home. Investigators say they found numerous items which were seized.

The FBI, FCC and FAA all took part in the investigation leading to Kelly's arrest. He's accused of interfering with communications between aircraft and air traffic controllers at Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport.

The investigation started after the FAA officials reported a sporadic and momentary interference problem involving communications between aircraft over northern Georgia and controllers.

According to the FBI, extensive investigation revealed that the source of the interference was in the Hyde Park subdivision in Cumming, about 25 miles north-east of Atlanta. Investigators say Kelly was in the immediate area the interference was known to be coming from.

Jack Daulton is special agent in charge with the FBI in Atlanta. He says investigators learned that Kelly, who's an experienced electronics engineer, was upset with noise from airplanes flying over his house at altitudes of about 15,000 feet. Daulton says Kelly was arrested without incident when FBI agents, along with personnel from the FCC and FAA went to Kelly's home. Kelly's arrest comes as a result of what investigators say was a team effort by all three federal agencies.

>From Birmingham, Alabama, David Black, KB4KCH, for Newsline.

Atlanta Hartsfield International is one of the three busiest airports in the United States. It is the home hub for Delta Airlines and services numerous other air carriers as well. Because of the danger to so many people this becomes a rather high profile case. If convicted, Kelly could spend many years behind prison bars.

(Newsline, FBI, FCC, W2CE)

Four License Upgrades Rolled Back by FCC

The FCC has told four hams that it is temporarily setting aside their recent Extra Class license grants and privileges. This, while it investigates alleged irregularities in the volunteer examination process that might affect them.

According to information on the ARRL's members webpage, letters went out on Tuesday November 10th from Catherine W. Seidel, who is the acting chief, of the Enforcement and Consumer Information Division. They were mailed to Elmer Smith, N3UNR, of Effort Pennsylvania; Philip DiGenova, N3UNS, of Bartonsville, Pennsylvania; Wayne Bowden, AA3RT, of Millsboro, Delaware; and Kenneth L. Sharp, AA3RU, of Boyertown, Pennsylvania. The letters request that all four individuals return their Extra Class license documents and Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination to the FCC's License Processing facility in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

An FCC official tells the ARRL that the agency is looking into testing irregularities including allegations that some examinees might have been coached or given test answers. But the FCC also goes to great pains to let the four hams know that they are not being accused of any wrongdoing. In fact, Seidel's letter goes as far as telling each of the applicants that her correspondence is not in any way a finding that anyone has engaged in misconduct. She adds that if the FCC's investigation concludes that it should grant their Extra Class license applications, that they will be reinstated.

(FCC, ARRL)

Another bust coming

The FCC may be getting ready to bust yet another source of malicious interference -- this time on the VHF bands. While the commission is not divulging any of its plans, rumors are circulating on the air. They indicate the Compliance and Information Bureau may soon take action against one or more hams involved in the jamming of repeater communications.

While nobody is sure as to where the next enforcement action might occur, it is known that hams in New York City, Miami and Chicago have been requesting assistance. In some localities the hams believe that they are fighting what appears to be organized repeater jamming and they want the FCC to step in to make it go away.

(Newsline)



Where Do We Go From Here?

By Johnny Fearon, W4WKP

If we take a look at the GARS accomplishments during the last several years, we can be proud. A lot has taken place because due to good sound planning - the drive to accomplish and see goals through and most importantly the dedicated folks involved.

When Howie, W4NVF, took over as President from yours truly, things began to happen 'Howie style'. He was keenly aware that the repeater was in need of some major TLC. He and his executive committee got together and contacted all of the members at the time to see if we were interested in contributing the necessary moneys to buy a new repeater. A repeater that would sound and operate reliably with many **QBF's** (*QSO's Between Failures*) would be welcomed and approved...so it happened.

After the new repeater was installed, we began installing the remote receive units. With considerable help, guidance and sweat from Howie and Eddie-WD4JEM, the remotes became a reality.

A decision was made to add some value to the 440 repeater. So with the help of many volunteers - the antenna, controller/transmitter were changed out or adjusted. We've even raised the power on the 440MHZ repeater recently.

There's 6-meter repeater project that is already in process. There are plans to give 440MHZ repeater some remote receive sites for added coverage. With frequencies less and less unavailable for additional repeaters, we don't have anywhere to expand as far as a communications system goes. The question for Gars members should be, where do we go from here?

Anyone who has been in sales knows that you will accomplish more by setting goals. We have done about all of the repeater stuff that we can. We may need to look at where to put our future endeavors now. We have been fortunate to obtain our 501C3 status after much hard work. A Big thanks to Bill Kelley, W4WKNK, we have three opportunities during the year to raise some funds for the club. Probably whatever direction the members choose to go will cost a good bit of money. Ham radio is a fantastic hobby, but it is not necessarily cheap.

73 and good thinking. Happy Holidays to you and your families. Remember GARS and the members within want you and yours back home safe.

QSL Postage

(VHF Reflector)

Effective January 1st, 1999, the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service fee increases to \$6 per pound or any portion thereof. Other fees remain unchanged.

(ARRL)

Also, effective January 1, 1999, U.S. first-class postage increases to 33 cents. Remember to send your Incoming QSL Bureau extra postage if you have envelopes on file

Big Glass Tubes

There's also some good news for hams with older power amplifiers that use large glass tubes. It comes from Triton Services, which is now offering U.S. made 4-400A and 3-500Z transmitting tubes for use by radio amateurs and others.

Triton is located in Easton, Pennsylvania. A few years ago it purchased the Glass Tube Division of Eitel - Mac Collough Company -- better known as Eimac. Now its using the original Eimac equipment and technology to produce the 3-500Z and 4-400A tubes and doing so to the original Eimac specs.

Distribution is exclusive through D and C Electronics of Spring Hill, Florida. Go to:

www.dandcelectronics.com

on the world wide web to learn more.

(ARRL)

DX Six Meters

This weeks DX is strictly six meters where trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific F2 is heating up. First, WILP reports hearing the 7Q7 Malawi beacon on 50.001.5 at 1752 UTC on November 7th. But that's not all. KM1H reports that 7Q7RM was heard by WA1OUB but Bob did not have a complete QSO. Karl says that he also heard bits but not enough to warrant a call. This almost record contact was on 50.110 MHz in CW. Reports also abound that indicate E30GA and other African DX'ers are on 6 meter SSB.

Meantime, there has been another 6 meter opening into the United States from New Zealand. Mike Fobister, ZL3TIC reports over the VHF Reflector that on October 31st, at 01:00 that K6QXY was heard for about 10 minutes. His signal was very weak but he did manage a QSO with ZL3NW and ZL2KT.

(VHF Reflector)

Is malicious interference protected?

Is malicious interference protected? And as the government tightens its enforcement noose around the necks of more and ham radio rules violators, a growing number are claiming that they actually have the right under the law to harass others. They say that to try to stop them is to violate their constitutionally protected right to freely express their views.

But one expert in that area of the law says no. Jammers have *no such protection* under the law. Bill Burnett, KT4SB, has more:

Malicious interference. Something our Elmer told us never to take part in. There was a question on our first license exam relating to this term and it's specifically defined in the rules and regulations of amateur radio. Those who participate in this illegal activity are referred to as "jammers" and as we all know, they're out there.

The FCC is cracking its amateur enforcement whip and catching some of these individuals, but "jammers" are using a common defense when they appear in court. Sandra Wolkov is a Miami attorney who specializes in this type of litigation:

"It's primarily their defense would be that their right to free speech on the radio shouldn't be hampered by the government interfering with that right.

One of the problems with that is that the airwaves are public resources. They have been mandated as a

public resource. And so the government does have the right currently to regulate who and when to speak and say what on the radio via the licensing and regulatory scheme." Sandra Wolkov

Wolkov says regulating the airwaves began during the early part of this century and the sinking of the Titanic played a major role.

"Yea, that is actually an interesting issue. The very reasons for government having control of the airwaves actually originated in the early part of the century with the Titanic where amateur radio broadcasters were interfering with the Titanic's signal. In fact causing, not causing but contributing to the sinking of the Titanic. And that was actually what prompted the government to take control, the emergency control of the airwaves. So that would support the government's justification for suing these people jamming the signals." Wolkov

However, was this malicious or done unknowingly? Remember...these were the early days of two-way radio communications.

In Miami, I'm Bill Burnett, KT4SB reporting.

The bottom line. While it's yet to be tested, claiming constitutional protection as a way of avoiding punishment for jamming others will probably not hold up in a court of law.

(Newsline)

The FCC has Canceled a General Class Upgrade of a Kentucky Ham.

This after the regulatory agency says the Physician's Certification used to obtain a morse code testing waiver was not a valid document.

The ham losing the upgrade is identified as Richard Lalone II, KC5GAX, of Fort Campbell. Lalone was notified by the FCC on November 19th that his operating privileges have been returned to his previous Technician Plus class and that he must not use the General class bands.

The FCC also told Lalone that it was not pursuing any putative measures against him at this time. But the regulatory agency also says that Lalone could run into difficulty if and when he tries to upgrade again or if he tries to renew his current license.

ARRL members can read an in-depth story about the license KC5GAX license class downgrade on the Leagues' Members Only website at: www.arrl.org/members

In Los Angeles, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, reporting.
(FCC, ARRL)

THE GARZETTE

DECEMBER 1998

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048



GARS meets the third Thursday of each month at Central Baptist Church on Gwinnett Drive in Lawrenceville. The next meeting will be the December 18 Christmas Party at the Holiday Inn near I85 & Lawrenceville Hwy., Starting at 8:00 P.M

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THE GARZETTE

DECEMBER 1998

GARS Publishes Metro Area VE/VEC Exam Schedules as a Service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

1st Sunday - 2:00pm WCARS VEC
Terry Jones, W4TL 770-967-6364
Johnson High School
3305 Poplar Springs RD, Gainesville

1st Saturday - 9:00AM
George White, KN4NG 361-6850
Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt. Bldg.
7496 N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro

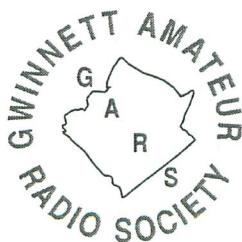
2nd Tuesday - 7:00PM
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759
Walton EMC, 3645 Lenora Church Rd,
Snellville

2nd Saturday - 8:30AM - CA VEC
Hal Martin, KI4RD - 978-9160
Stone Mountain Methodist Church
5312 West Mountain St., Stone Mtn.

3rd Saturdays - 9:00AM - CA VEC
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171
Marietta First United Methodist Church 56
Whitlock Ave, Room 305

4th Tuesday - 7:00PM ARRL VEC
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK - 942-6466.
United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville

4th Friday - 7:00PM W5YI-VEC
Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362
St. John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks
Trickum Rd, Lilburn
Headphones Provided!



Atlanta Area Nets and Round Tables

Mon	50.235	8:30PM	Regional 6 Meter SSB Net
Mon	147.21+	9:00PM	Conyers ARES Net t-162.2
Mon	145.45-	8:00PM	ARES Net (Decatur)
Mon	145.47-	8:00PM	North Fulton ARL Net
Mon	145.41-	8:30PM	MATPARC Net
Mon	3.975	8:00PM	Swap Net
Mon	147.075+	9:00PM	Gwinnett ARES Net
Tue	147.075+	8:00PM	GARS Weekly Net
Tue	147.075+	9:00PM	GARS CW Practice
Tue	145.47-	10:30PM	Insomniac Net
Tue	28.420	7:30PM	Ten Meter Traders Net
Wed	145.41	11:30AM	Boy Scout Youth Net
Wed	145.150-	8:00PM	Georgia Tech Stinger Net
Wed	145.41-	8:00PM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Wed	146.67-	9:00PM	LARC Net
Thu	146.88-	8:30PM	Kennehoochee ARC
Thu	147.225+	8:00PM	NE Ga ARC
Thu	147.15	8:00PM	simplex
Thu	145.41-	9:30PM	AMSAT
Thu	427.25ATV	9:00PM	Amateur Television, ATV
	146.655 Voice		
Fri	3.898	8:00PM	GA Traders Net
Fri	145.47-	8:00PM	NFARL Youth Net
Fri	146.45-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net
Sat	7.275	8:00AM	Swap Net
Sat	3.857	9:00AM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Sat	146.45-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net
Sun	146.82-	8:00PM	ARC Net
Sun	146.76-	7:00PM	Roundtable AMRC t-107.2
Sun	7.275	9:00AM	GA Traders Net
Sun	3.983	5:00PM	GA ARES
Daily	146.76-	Noon	Brown Bag Net t-107.2
Daily	146.88-	11:00PM	Late Nite Owl Net
Daily	146.79-	8:00PM	Sassafras Mtn.
Daily	3.975	6:00PM	WX & Skywarn

This is a "living list", meaning it is constantly changing. If you know of additions or changes to it please contact the Editor.